

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 DPW-01 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00
AID-05 /101 W
-----000445 070319Z /73

P R 061200Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9706
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONGKONG
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEBR, VE, CE
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA

REF: NEW DELHI 3468

1. IN CONTRAST TO HIS VISIT TO INDIA (REFTEL), VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA WAS COMPARATIVELY LOW-KEYED. WHILE HE WAS RECEIVED POLITELY AND ACCORDED HONORS BEFITTING A STATE VISITOR, THERE ARE NO SIGNS THAT THE SRI LANKANS WERE AS EFFUSIVE AS THE INDIANS IN THEIR REMARKS ABOUT VIETNAM. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO MEET WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIALS, BUT WERE TOLD THEY COULD ADD LITTLE TO WHAT APPEARED IN THE PRESS. IF LITTLE ELSE WAS SAID, PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE GONE BEYOND WHAT APPEARS IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE- THAT HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR THE HEROIC STRUGGLE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND TO REBUILD THEIR NATION.

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2. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, VIETNAMESE PM REPORTEDLY MADE INTER ALIA THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:
A. US-VIETNAM
CERTAIN VITAL QUESTIONS HAVE TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. HE REFERRED TO WAR

REPARATIONS AND TO US OBLIGATIONS TO HELP VIETNAM IN
POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION.

B. KAMPUCHEA-VIETNAM

ALL INFORMATION ON DISPUTE WAS GIVEN TO PRESIDENT
JAYEWARDENE AS A "FRIEND AND GOOD NEIGHBOR". PHAM
SAID THEY WERE NOT AT WAR, REFERRED TO TRADITIONAL
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND SQHKRIMEMA#

SHIP WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

C. REGIONAL COOPERATION: ADVOCATED REGIONAL COOPERATION

THAT WILL BRING BENEFITS TO ALL. PHAM SAID VIETNAM
DID NOT INTERFERE WITH ASEAN AFFAIRS AND THOUGHT
BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE BEST.

D. VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

VIETNAM WOULD NOT ADMIT THOSE WHO LEFT VIETNAM ON THEIR
OWN ACCORD AFTER THE REUNIFICATION. THEY HAD BEEN VERY
HARMFUL AND LIVED A LIFE DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE NATIVE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

E. FOREIGN INVESTMENT. FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS WELCOME
IN VIETNAM. VIETNAM HAS ENACTED A FOREIGN INVESTMENT
LAW AND ALL INVESTORS WHO COME IN AGREE TO COMPLY WITH
THE LAW. SOME ALREADY HAVE COME IN AND MORE ARE EXPECTED.

4. WE WILL BE MEETING WITH MFA OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH
THE VISIT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. WE ARE ALSO TRYING
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TO GET A SINGLE EXISTING TYPE OF PHAM'S PRESS CONFERENCE
TO CLARIFY SOME POSSIBLE ADDITION POINTS, E.G.
RETURN OF REMAINS OF US WAR DEAD.
WRIGGINS

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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